

Message Text

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XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 263124

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, ENRG

SUBJECT:WEEKLY STATUS REPORT -- THAILAND, INDONESIA,
MALAYSIA, BURMA AND SINGAPORE AFFAIRS

MALAYSIA

NEW POSITION AUTHORIZED FOR KUALA LUMPUR

ON OCTOBER 20, M/MO ISSUED A MEMO INCREASING THE POSITION
CEILING OF THE EA BUREAU BY ONE. THE POSITION WILL BE
ALLOCATED TO KUALA LUMPUR TO ASSIST IN THE CONSULAR WORK-
LOAD OCCASIONED BY INDOCHINESE REFUGEES.

SINGAPORE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 263124

PRIME MINISTER LEE'S VISIT

A CHECKLIST OF PENDING ITEMS AND PROPOSED ACTIONS STEMMING
FROM THE LEE VISIT INCLUDES THE STATUS OF THE M-203 GRENADE
LAUNCHER, I-HAWK, P-3 STAGING, BILATERAL INVESTMENT TREATY,
REFUGEES AND US POLICY TOWARD ASEAN (A COPY IS BEING
POUCHED TO EMB SINGAPORE).

THE PM HAS ALSO SENT AN ELOQUENT LETTER EXPRESSING

ADMIRATION FOR THE CONTENT OF HIS DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON, STRESSING THE NEEDS OF ASEAN FOR INVESTMENT AND MARKETS, AND URGING A HIGHER AND MORE CONSTRUCTIVE TONE TO THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE. A REPLY IS BEING PREPARED.

THAILAND

GOVERNMENT STILL NOT FORMED (CONF)

ALTHOUGH THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN BANGKOK REMAINS CALM FOLLOWING THE OCTOBER 20 OUSTER OF THE THANIN GOVERNMENT, THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY COUNCIL HAS NOT YET DECIDED ON THE FORM AND STRUCTURE OF A NEW THAI GOVERNMENT. THERE IS CONTINUED BEHIND THE SCENES MANEUVERING AND INCREASING EVIDENCE OF SERIOUS FACTIONALISM WITHIN THE MILITARY LEADERSHIP AS THEY ATTEMPT TO AGREE ON THE COMPOSITION OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT. NONETHELESS, THERE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN SOME MOVEMENT WITHIN THE PAST WEEK TOWARDS COMPLETION OF AN INTERIM CONSTITUTION, AND GENERAL KRIANGSAK SEEMS TO BE CONSOLIDATING SUPPORT AS THE LEADING CANDIDATE FOR THE PRIME MINISTERSHIP.

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PAGE 03 STATE 263124

INDONESIA

AMB. MASTERS' HEARINGS AND CONSULTATIONS (LOU)

AMB. MASTERS APPEARED BEFORE SFRC NOV. 1 IN CONJUNCTION WITH HIS NOMINATION AS AMBASSADOR TO INDONESIA. FOLLOWING A CORDIAL 25-MINUTE SESSION DEVOTED LARGELY TO QUESTIONS ABOUT ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND DEVELOPMENT PROBLEMS (WITH NO MENTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS), THE COMMITTEE FAVORABLY REPORTED THE NOMINATION TO THE FULL SENATE. SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE SENATE, THE AMBASSADOR IS SCHEDULED TO BE SWORN IN ON NOV. 9. AMB. MASTERS WILL CALL ON THE SECRETARY ON NOV. 11, DEPARTING IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER TO RETURN TO DACCA IN HOPES OF ARRIVING IN JAKARTA BEFORE THE END OF NOVEMBER.

PRIVATE CONGRESSIONAL VISIT (LOU)

CONG. JOHN MURPHY (D-NY), CHAIRMAN OF THE MERCHANT MARINE AND FISHERIES COMMITTEE, WILL BE VISITING INDONESIA PRIVATELY NOV. 17-19 AS A GUEST OF THE CENTER FOR STRATEGIC

AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES (CSIS). GEORGE BENSON INFORMS US THAT THE CONGRESSMAN, WHO WAS HELPFUL IN OBTAINING LNG TANKER APPROVALS FOR INDONESIA, WILL BE PAYING HIS OWN EXPENSES. BENSON ALSO STATED THAT THE INDONESIAN EMBASSY HAS RECOMMENDED TO LIM BIAN KIE OF CSIS THAT CALLS BE ARRANGED FOR THE CONGRESSMAN ON PRESIDENT SUHARTO, DEFENSE MINISTER PANGGABEAN AND OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS. MURPHY PREVIOUSLY VISITED INDONESIA PRIVATELY IN 1974 AS A GUEST OF PERTAMINA AND THE INDONESIAN DEFENSE DEPARTMENT (HANKAM).

PERTAMINA PRESIDENT-DIRECTOR TO VISIT (LOU)

GEORGE BENSON INFORMS US THAT PERTAMINA PRESIDENT-DIRECTOR
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PAGE 04 STATE 263124

PIET HARYONO WILL BE VISITING THE US FOR THE FIRST TIME NEXT MONTH EN ROUTE TO THE OPEC MEETING IN VENEZUELA BEGINNING DEC. 20. HARYONO WILL ATTEND AND SPEAK AT A THREE DAY CONFERENCE IN HONOLULU ON FINANCING WORLD ENERGY REQUIREMENTS, BEGINNING NOV. 29, AND WILL THEN VISIT LOS ANGELES, SAN FRANCISCO, HOUSTON, WASHINGTON (DEC. 10-14), AND NEW YORK BEFORE PROCEEDING TO CARACAS. BENSON WILL BE VISITING JAKARTA IN MID-NOVEMBER TO DISCUSS ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE TRIP AND WILL ACCOMPANY HARYONO THROUGHOUT HIS STAY IN THE U.S.

THE F-5

WE LOOK FORWARD TO TALKS WITH GEN. MURDANI THIS WEEK ON THE STATUS OF THE LOA FOR THE F-5S. WE ARE CONSIDERING THE INITIATIVES WE COULD FEASIBLY UNDERTAKE TO MEET INDONESIAN CONCERNS PENDING DEFINITIVE USG APPROVAL OF THE TRANSACTION.

HUMAN RIGHTS

IT IS READILY APPARENT THAT INDONESIAN ADHERENCE TO ITS ANNOUNCED RELEASE SCHEDULE OF 10,000 DETAINEES PRIOR THE END OF 1977 IS AN ABSOLUTELY CRITICAL ELEMENT FOR THE EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. THE DEPT AND WASHINGTON CLIMATE WOULD REGARD ANY DELAY OR SHORTFALL IN RELEASES AS INDONESIAN OAD FAITH AND STIMULATE A HOST OF UNFAVORABLE USG ACTIONS. WE BELIEVE IT IS BECOMING RECOGNIZED THAT PRACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS IN INDONESIA PROBABLY REQUIRE THAT RELEASE BE ACCOMPANIED BY SOME TEMPORARY PHASED CONDITIONS, BUT THE RELEASE, NUMBER AND DATE MUST REPRESENT THE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS TO WHICH THE GOI IS PUBLICLY COMMITTED.
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PAGE 05 STATE 263124

LNG DECISION (CONF)

DEPARTMENT VISITED NOVEMBER 2 BY O'ROURKE, WOOD AND MCKINNEY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS WHO ARE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE OUTCOME BY NOVEMBER 20 OF THE BARDIN REVIEW NOW UNDERWAY IN DOE ON THE IMPORT AND SALE PORTION OF THE CASE. AS EMBASSY JAKARTA ALREADY INFORMED BY THE COMPANY AT OUR REQUEST, BARDIN IS EXPECTED TO ESTABLISH PROCEDURES LEADING TO A COORDINATED FEDERAL/STATE DECISION ON SITING BY NEXT JULY 31.

WE HAVE REQUESTED DOE TO PREPARE A COMPREHENSIVE STATUS REPORT ON THE DECISION FOR THE EMBASSY AND GOI. DOE BEING A NEW DEPARTMENT WITH MANY PRESSING DOMESTIC CONCERNS THIS REPORT HAS BEEN SLOW IN PREPARATION. HOWEVER, WE EXPECT TO HAVE A CLEARER PICTURE OF DOE PROCEDURES AND THE NATURE OF THE DECISION AFTER MEETING SCHEDULED FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, FOR AMBASSADOR MASTERS, MR. HEGINBOTHAM AND EB WITH DOE OFFICIALS.

FYI. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS OFFICIALS ARE PLANNING TO GO TO JAKARTA EITHER LATE NOVEMBER OR AFTER HARYONO'S VISIT TO CALIFORNIA, AT WHICH TIME QUESTION OF EXTENSION OF DEADLINE ON THE CONTRACT WILL BE TAKEN UP.

THAILAND

REORGANIZATION OF NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTIVITIES (LOU)

EMBASSY BANGKOK'S PROPOSED REORGANIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTIVITIES INTO A NARCOTICS CONTROL UNIT REPORTING TO THE DCM IS STILL UNDER STUDY BY S/NM AND EA/EX. THERE ARE NO CONCEPTUAL PROBLEMS WITH THE PROPOSAL, AND, IN FACT, ALL BELIEVE IT WILL SIGNIFICANTLY ENHANCE COORDINATION OF OUR NARCOTICS

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PAGE 06 STATE 263124

CONTROL PROGRAMS IN THAILAND. BUDGET AND FISCAL AND PERSONNEL ASPECTS OF THE REORGANIZATION, HOWEVER, REMAIN UNSETTLED. S/NM PLANS TO EFFECT THE CHANGE OVER IN BANGKOK EARLY IN CALENDER 1978. WE INTEND TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER FURTHER WITH AMBASSADOR WHITEHOUSE WHILE HE IS IN THE U.S. VANCE

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